

Pleads for More Parks and Play-grounds for New York Public



School principals and bodies of public spirited citizens, such as settlement associations, neighborhood societies, taxpayers' associations, &c., on many occasions in an endeavor to enlist their cooperation in creating a sense of responsibility for the care of parks.

In this connection an interesting comment from the report is quoted below: "Looking over the crowded parks in Detroit, Chicago and other cities, I have been struck with the sense of responsibility which the people have for their parks. For instance, in one park in Chicago where hundreds of men were sleeping on the grass during the hot period in summer the conditions next morning were such that it required hardly any attention from the park authorities. The contrary is true in New York, where under like conditions and also wherever crowds congregate great numbers of park laborers have to be entirely diverted from their regular work for hours in order to do the cleaning up."

Commissioner Ward relates how flowers have been taken away in broad daylight and trees had been pulled up by their roots and carried out of the parks. Even sods have been torn up for use as missiles in gang fights. Disorderly groups, he said, had driven the general public from certain parks, using them as gathering places to commit illegal acts. According to this report conditions have been growing worse ever since 1898, when the separate force of park policemen in the large parks was abolished and the park system was obliged to depend upon the regular police force of the city for protection.

Intensive use of resources hitherto neglected and scientific planning have enabled Commissioner Ward to accomplish improvements in the parks under his control.

As a result of administrative reorgan-

ization as to the necessity of all requisitions presented," says the Commissioner, "I have been able to produce a saving amounting to \$12,567.20 on open market orders alone, during the first five months of my administration. The total saving amounts to \$25,000. This is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that the total appropriation for the Park Department proper is only \$1,097,544.29, being a saving on the total appropriation of 2 1/2 per cent. I cannot help but call attention to the fact that if this proportion of saving should be carried out in other and larger departments of the city, the saving would be most substantial."

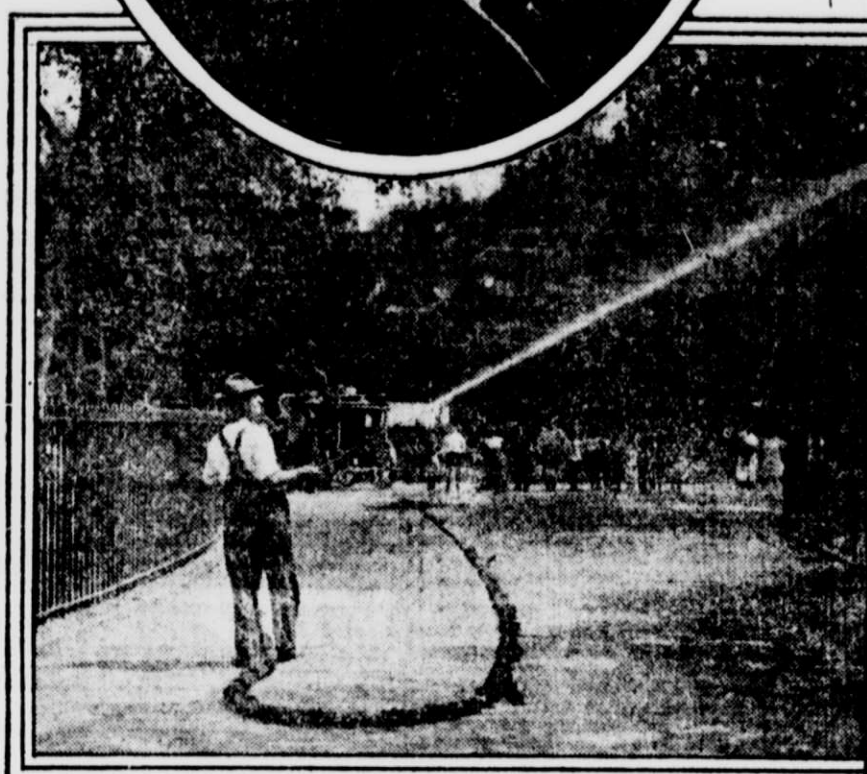
Barren spots in the lawns of the various parks and playgrounds and along the gutters in Riverside Drive have been covered with soil obtained from public and private excavations, thousands of yards of dirt and sod being procured without expense to the city from the site of the Metropolitan Museum additions. This instance only one of the many economies cited by Commissioner Ward in his report to the Mayor.

For the protection of the children Commissioner Ward made a campaign against the old practice of park vendors exposing their candy and other delicacies to flies and dust. He has incorporated in all licenses a clause requiring obedience to city and State health regulations and making revocation the penalty for disobedience. Commissioner Ward enlisted the aid of the Health Department to see that the concessionaires sell nothing but pure products and has just received a report from the Health Commissioner's office that conditions in the refreshment booths are now satisfactory.

Not only has Commissioner Ward increased the city's revenues from the various park concessions and privileges, but he has subjected the holders of soda, candy and refreshment privileges to rigid sanitary requirements.

Relative to the improvement in the matter of park music, the Commissioner reports:

"There has never been before in Central Park such an aggregation of musicians of the very highest type as played there during this summer's season." The Commissioner states that Nathan Franko and Arthur Bergh have picked their men from the best musicians in such bodies as Sousa's band and the orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera House, the New York Philharmonic Society and the New York Symphony Society. Commissioner Ward also reports that he has planned to obtain the cooperation of the leading singing societies toward inaugurating a series of



Power spray at work.

Above—Commissioner Cabot Ward

Commissioner Cabot Ward in Report to Mayor Lets a Few Cats Out of the Bag.

"NEW YORK is sadly deficient in both park and playground acreage. In Greater New York only one acre is allowed to every 627 persons, or a space of eight feet square for each individual. In Philadelphia there is an acre for every 300 persons, and in St. Louis an acre to every 250 inhabitants, while in Indianapolis, with 250,000 inhabitants, there is more park acreage than in the entire Borough of Manhattan. With our congested population and every other city reaching out for more park acreage our duty in New York is clear."

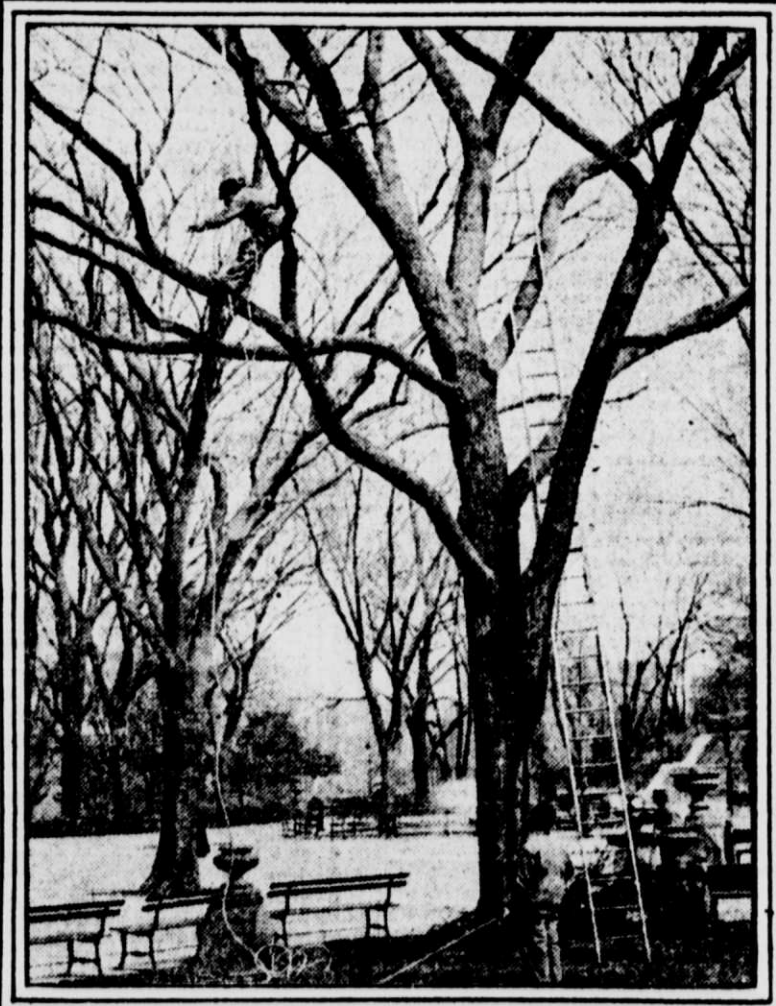
The above statement is made by Park Commissioner Cabot Ward in his report to the Mayor, which treats of the accomplishments of the Park Department in Manhattan and Richmond during the present administration.

Commissioner Ward has detailed the expedients by which he has already started to secure immediate playground relief. He has secured the use of vacant lots for temporary recreation purposes. Through the courtesy of Borough President Marks he has obtained the use of

the corporation yard at Rivington street and East River and from Dock Commissioner Smith numerous bulkhead properties, notably those at East Seventeenth street and West Fifty-second street. Commissioner Williams of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity has also turned over to the Park Department various properties adjacent to aqueduct water gates and the Public Service Commission has willingly cooperated in granting the use of several pieces of property under its control. At all these points new playgrounds have now been installed and steps have also been taken to use the flat portions of roofs of armories for recreational purposes.

Commissioner Ward has asked the Interstate Commission for the use of Palisade Park on Bear Mountain near Newburgh. He hopes to arrange with one of the large steamboat companies for free transportation for baseball and camping parties, believing this will greatly relieve the pressure of present recreation facilities.

Commissioner Ward has addressed



Pruning trees in Central Park.

zation and personal supervision Commissioner Ward has been able to save the city \$25,000 in the purchase of supplies since January 1, 1914.

open air choral concerts, which will be a decided innovation in musical programmes.

During the past spring Commissioner

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Ward planted 11,444 trees and shrubs and has removed 916 dead and dangerous trees from the parks.

On taking office the Park Commissioner found the trees in the city's streets required immediate attention. He learned from the departmental records that in 1913 New York city had lost 1,500 more trees than it had planted, due to death and disease. Commissioner Ward has more than restored this loss by new plantings. He is now experimenting with a machine which detects injuries to trees from leaky gas mains or electrical contact. This machine was imported from Berlin. He has also imported new types of street grates for sidewalk trees which have been used successfully abroad.

The report states that the park authorities have devoted special attention to the needs of mothers and babies. The number of benches in the various parks and along Delancey street parkway and upper Broadway have been increased. During "baby week" all the park lawns were thrown open to mothers who had young children.

Commissioner Ward has made a special effort to bring the various divisions of the labor force together so as to enable them more thoroughly to work in the best interests of the Park Department. He has given particular attention to defining the duties of each man and providing him with the kind of work to which he was best fitted. Steps have also been taken to provide such prizes as will arouse a spirit of competition between the section foremen as to the best kept sections.

The Commissioner has also begun a campaign for a pension system for the Park Department. There is urgent necessity for this in so far as the statistics show a total labor force of 595 men, of whom 159 are more than 58 years old, 120 are suffering from afflictions which amount to total disability so far as labor is concerned and 174 are suffering from partial disability.

NEW NEWSBOYS.

THE European war has developed a local feature which is attracting widespread attention in the downtown section of the city, where novelties are daily occurrences and fail to attract attention for more than a few hours. However, this feature, which is directly due to the war, attracted more than ordinary attention from the

very outset and is still attracting, although it is more than a few days old.

Park Row was the first thoroughfare to receive the novelty. On that busy thoroughfare, which is the direct route to the Brooklyn Bridge and the most important subway station on the underground system, there appeared a number of newsboys with bundles of papers under their arms. It is not an unusual thing to see newsboys on Park Row; they've been there since the thoroughfare amounted to anything. But these recent newsboys were out of the ordinary for the simple reason that instead of peddling newspapers printed in English they were peddling newspapers printed in German.

That was not so much of a feature in itself as the fact that the newsboys were making their announcements in German. That was really what was attracting attention from thousands of passersby who heard the cry of "Wux-tra" in a foreign language. They could not imagine what it was all about. However, the boys were not a bit backward in holding up their papers for examination very much after the style employed by other newsboys in displaying baseball extras.

The idea in selling newspapers printed in German on the streets is the outcome of a demand made by Germans and German American residents and business men of the city for newspapers printed in the language of the fatherland. Naturally they are vitally interested in the war and they correctly figure that the German papers will devote more space to the German side of the trouble than the papers printed in English will, who must cater to all classes and nationalities of readers who desire all sides of the war without partiality being shown to any particular side.

One thing is obvious, however. Now that the German papers have blazed a trail it will not be surprising if papers printed in the language of the other nationalities involved in the war follow suit. Park Row, Nassau street, Broadway and other downtown streets avenues will assume a cosmopolitan appearance if newsboys appear on the streets selling papers printed in German, French, Russian and other foreign tongues.

If such a thing comes to pass a person wishing to buy a newspaper will

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